

Ask the U.S. Embassy

January 23rd

I live in the United Kingdom, and I would like to apply for a visa for my daughter who lives in Jamaica to visit the United States. Please tell me how to go about this, and what hurdles I have to cross.

To apply for a visitor visa, your daughter must schedule an appointment at U.S. Embassy Kingston online or by phone, complete the DS-160 application form, and pay the visa application fee at any National Commercial Bank branch. Detailed instructions are available on our website at http://kingston.usembassy.gov/how_to_apply2.html.

Applications for all minors under age 18 should be submitted in person by one of the child's parents or legal guardians. Minors who are at least 14 years old are required to accompany their parents to the visa appointment, but younger children may remain at home. In general, applications should be submitted by a parent or guardian who lives with the child. Since you are residing in another country, your daughter's mother or legal guardian in Jamaica should assist your daughter in completing the application process.

On the day of your daughter's visa appointment, she and her guardian should be prepared to clearly explain the reason for traveling to the United States, plans for financing the trip, and the reasons why your daughter would return to Jamaica after traveling to the United States. It is not necessary to bring documentation such as school records or bank statements; consular officers will not request this documentation when evaluating a visitor visa application.

For additional information regarding all types of non-immigrant and immigrant visas, please visit our website at: http://kingston.usembassy.gov/general_information.html. Applicants are encouraged to apply early in order allow ample time for processing.

U.S. Embassy Kingston would like to remind visa applicants to be cautious in all dealings with individuals and companies that claim to offer any assistance in obtaining U.S. visas. These individuals and companies may attempt to receive payment for forms and information about visa procedures that are free on the Embassy or Department of State website.